

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended.

II. Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite that a control signal generated by a control stage is indicative of whether an integrated circuit needs to reduce power consumption. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

III. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5, 890,819 issued to Compton (hereinafter "Compton"). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a technique for reducing a magnitude of a rate of current change in an integrated circuit. When power consumption by an integrated circuit needs to be reduced, an amount of source current is reduced by sequentially switching "off" current sources. *See* Specification, paragraph [0016]. Accordingly, with reference to Figure 2a of the present application, amended claims 1 and 5 of the present application

at least require a control stage 30 that generates a control signal **m_out** that is *indicative of whether power consumption by the integrated circuit needs to be reduced*.

Compton, in contrast to the present invention, is directed to a printing system in which variations in voltage supplied to resistance elements of a print head are compensated for. Compton, Abstract. In other words, Compton discloses a technique to prevent non-uniformity in printing by compensating for variations applied to resistance heating elements in a thermal printer. See Compton, column 1, lines 62 – 65. Thus, Compton relates generally to a system that compensates for supply voltage variations.

However, Compton does not disclose, or otherwise teach, a system that is dependent on *power consumption* factors as required by amended independent claims 1 and 5. As shown in Figure 2a of the present application, the control stage 30 generates a control signal that is indicative of whether an integrated circuit needs to reduce power consumption. Compton is silent as to such a control signal.

With respect to the treatment of claim 1 of the present application in the Office Action of April 4, 2003, the purported control stage (28 in Figure 1 of Compton) in Compton is simply a memory latch (*see* Compton, column 7, lines 6 – 8) that does not generate a signal that is indicative of whether power consumption needs to be reduced.

With respect to the treatment of claim 5 of the present application in the Office Action of April 4, 2003, the purported control stage (22, 24, 26, 28 in Figure 1 of Compton) in Compton is used to determine an amount of voltage variation. With reference to Figure 1 of Compton, an analog-to-digital converter 22 compares an applied voltage to a steady reference voltage and then digitizes the difference. The digitized output is then applied to a look-up table 24 that outputs a corresponding energy number.

The energy number is applied as an input to an adder 26, which adds this energy number and a fed back energy number. The output of the adder 26 is a number representing cumulative units of energy applied to the resistance elements 40-1 through 40-n. This output is then applied to the memory latch 28. *See* Compton, column 6, line 51 – column 7, line 37. Thus, elements 22, 24, 26, and 28 serve a function to determine and handle voltage variations, *not power consumption considerations*. Accordingly, Compton fails to teach either explicitly, or inherently, a control signal that is indicative of whether an integrated circuit needs to reduce power consumption.

In view of the above, Compton fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 5. Thus, amended claims 1 and 5 are patentable over Compton. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226.106001;P6086).

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Respectfully submitted,


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